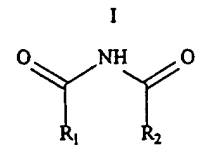
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

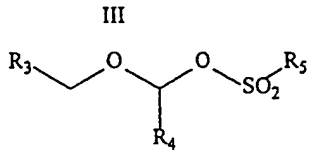
1. A method of N-alkylating ureides comprising reacting a ureide of formula I

I



with an alkylating agent of formula III

III



in the presence of a basic catalyst in an aprotic reaction medium, to provide a corresponding alkylated ureide.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein:

$R_3$= H, lower alkyl, phenyl, or substituted phenyl

$R_4$= H, lower alkyl, phenyl, or substituted phenyl

$R_5$= lower alkyl, phenyl, or substituted phenyl.

3. A process for N - alkoxyalkylation of a ureide comprising:

reacting the ureide with an ester of a sulfonic acid in the presence of a base and an aprotic solvent, to provide a resultant N - alkoxyalkylated ureide.

4. A process according to claim 3, wherein the ureide is a 5,5 - disubstituted barbituric acid.

5. A process according to claim 3, wherein the ureide is 5,5 - diphenyl barbituric acid, the ester of a sulfonic acid is selected from the group consisting of methoxymethyl methanesulfonate, methoxymethyl ethanesulfonate, methoxymethyl benzenesulfonate, and methoxymethyl p- toluenesulfonate, the base is di-isopropyl ethyl amine, and the resultant ureide is N,N'-bismethoxymethyl - 5,5 - diphenyl barbituric acid.

6. A process according to claim 3, wherein the ureide is selected from the group consisting of 5,5 - diphenyl barbituric acid, phenytoin, glutethimide, ethosuximide, 5-phenyl-5-ethylbarbituric acid, and 5,5-diethylbarbituric acid.

7. A process according to claim 3, wherein the ureide is selected from the group consisting of acecarbromal, apronalide, bromisolvalum, capuride, carbromal, ectylurea, hydantoins, glutarimides, oxazolidinediones, succinimides, and barbiturates.

8. A process according to claim 3, wherein the ester of a sulfonic acid is methoxymethyl methanesulfonate.

9. A process according to claim 3, wherein the ester of a sulfonic acid is selected from the group consisting of ethoxymethyl methanesulfonate, benzyloxymethyl methanesulfonate, methoxymethyl ethanesulfonate, methoxymethyl benzenesulfonate, methoxymethyl p-toluenesulfonate, methoxylbenzylidene methanesulfonate, and methoxyethylidene methanesulfonate.

10. A process according to claim 3, wherein the base is non-aqueous with a strength between sodium hydride and a tertiary amine.

11. A process according to claim 3, wherein the base is a tertiary amine.

12. A process according to claim 3, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydride, potassium hydride, lithium hydride, triethyl amine, tri-n-propylamine, and di-isopropyl ethyl amine.

13. A process according to claim 3, wherein the ester of a sulfonic acid is produced *in situ* and is combined directly with the ureide without isolating the ester of a sulfonic acid.

14. A process according to claim 3, further comprising reacting a mixed anhydride of acetic acid and a sulfonic acid with a dialkoxymethane to provide the ester of the sulfonic acid *in situ* and combined with the ureide without isolating the ester of the sulfonic acid.

15. A process according to claim 3, wherein the ureide is 5,5 - disubstituted barbituric acid, which is converted to its di-anion salt with a strong base, and one equivalent of the ester of a sulfonic acid is added, to provide the corresponding mono-alkylated barbituric acid.

16. A process according to claim 3, wherein the aprotic reaction medium is a dipolar solvent.

17. A process according to claim 3, wherein the dipolar solvent is selected from the group consisting of dimethyl formamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethylacetamide, sulfolane, and N-methylpyrrolidone.

18. A process according to claim 4, wherein the the ureide is 5,5 - diphenyl barbituric acid, the ester of a sulfonic acid is selected from the group consisting of methoxymethyl methanesulfonate, ethoxymethyl methanesulfonate, benzyloxymethyl methanesulfonate, methoxymethyl ethanesulfonate, methoxymethyl benzenesulfonate, methoxymethyl p-toluenesulfonate, methoxylbenzylidene methanesulfonate, methoxyethylidene methanesulfonate, the base is a non-aqueous base selected from a hydride or an amine, and the process further comprises isolating the resultant alkoxyalkylated 5,5 - diphenyl - barbituric acid.

19. A process according to claim 18, wherein the ureide is alkoxyalkylated to an N-mono-alkoxyalkylated 5,5-diphenyl barbituric acid.

20. A process according to claim 19, wherein the ester is a methoxymethyl ester, the base is very strong and is present in excess, and the isolated compound is N-methoxymethyl -5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid.

21. An alkoxyalkylated ureide compound selected from the group consisting of N-methoxymethyl ethosuximide, N-methoxymethyl glutethimide, and N-methoxymethyl-5,5-diphenylbarbituric acid.

22. A compound according to claim 21, wherein the compound is N-methoxymethyl ethosuximide.

23. A compound according to claim 21, wherein the compound is N-methoxymethyl glutethimide.

24. A compound according to claim 21, wherein the compound is N-methoxymethyl-5, 5-diphenylbarbituric acid.

25. A method comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a pharmaceutical agent comprising a compound according to claim 22.